

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for configuring user storage space of an optical disc to store data in different formats, the method comprising acts of:

dividing the user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disc into a plurality of storage sections including one or more first storage sections where only user data in a first format is recordable and one or more second sections where only user data in a second format that is different from the first format is recordable, wherein the user storage space is available for a user to record user data; and

defining one or more availability parameters which define a location and/or extent of at least one storage section in the user storage space of the optical disk.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said one or more availability parameters is incorporated in a standard format for the respective first and second storage sections.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said one or more availability parameters is a variable parameter whose value is stored in a predetermined area or location, the variable parameter varying the location and extent of

the first and second storage sections of the user storage space of the optical disc.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a borderline address between the first storage section and the second storage section.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines an extremity address of one of the first or second storage sections.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a length of one of the first or second storage sections.

7. (Previously presented) A user-writeable optical disc to store data in different formats, the optical disc comprising:

a user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disk divided into a plurality of storage sections including one or more first storage sections where only user data in a first format is recordable and one or more second storage sections where only user data in a second format that is different from the first format is recordable, wherein the user storage space is available for a user to record user data; and

a predetermined area or location of the user storage space where one or more

availability parameters are stored, at least one of the availability parameters defines a location and/or extent of at least one storage section in the user storage space of the optical disk.

8. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a borderline address between the first storage section and the second storage section.

9. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines an extremity address of one of the first or second storage sections.

10. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a length of one of the first or second storage sections.

11. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein the values of said parameters are stored as a table in a predetermined area or location of the user storage space of the disc.

12. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 11, wherein said table contains at least one entry defining the length of the table.

13. (Previously presented) A method of writing user data in different formats to an optical disc comprising acts of:

determining a value of at least one availability parameter which defines a location and/or extent of a plurality of storage sections in the user storage space of the optical disk;

determining at least one first and at least one second predefined storage sections of a user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disk on the basis of said availability parameter, in the first predefined storage section only user data in a first format is recordable and in the second predefined storage section only user data in a second format that is different from the first format is recordable, wherein the user storage space is available for a user to record user data;

consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas of the user storage space;

selecting, within said first and second predefined storage sections of the user storage space, a free area suitable for accommodating the user data to be written in the first or second formats and taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;

recording said user data within said free area thus selected.

14. (Previously presented) The method of writing information to an optical disc according to claim 13, comprising an act of reading the one or more availability parameters from the optical disc.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein writing of user data in a selected format to an address outside a storage section in which said format is recordable is avoided.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising acts of:
if the size of available storage sections in a selected format is insufficient to accommodate the user data to be recorded

determining whether storage sections in another format in combination with the available storage sections in the selected format contains a storage space portion suitable and sufficient for accommodating the user data to be written; and

amending at least one of said one or more availability parameters such as to increase the size of said predefined storage section in the selected format thereby also decreasing the size of said predefined storage section in another format.

17. (Previously presented) Apparatus, comprising:

a signal processing system configured to communicate with an optical disc drive system of an optical disc drive apparatus for writing data in different formats to and reading the data from an optical disc, said signal processing system is configured

to divide user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disc into a plurality of storage sections including one or more first storage sections where only user data in a first format is recordable and one or more

second storage sections where only user data in a second format that is different from the first format is recordable, wherein the user storage space is available for a user to store user data, and

to define one or more availability parameters which define a location and/or extent of at least one of the first and second storage sections.